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## **DHEC Health Advisory**

Distributed via Health Alert Network  
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### **South Carolina Travelers** **Exposure to Confirmed Case of Measles in New Mexico**

#### **Background Information**

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) has been notified by the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDH) that fifty-two (52) South Carolina residents have been exposed to a case of measles during a recent visit to New Mexico. The exposure occurred May 12-16, while attending the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The SC residents were exposed to an international student from India who was diagnosed with a laboratory confirmed case of measles. The teenager arrived in Albuquerque on May 12, 2007, to attend the Fair. On May 16, the patient presented with a history of cough, fever, and a maculopapular erythematous rash on the face that had spread down the body on the same day.

**The NMDH expects that onset of symptoms in secondary cases could occur during May 19–May 28. Rash onset in persons with secondary cases may occur during May 19–June 3.**

The measles case was communicable and potentially exposed persons at the following known locations in Albuquerque between May 12th and May 16th:

- Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, May 12–16
- MCM Elegante Hotel at 2020 Menaul, May 12–16
- Wal-Mart at Carlisle and Menaul between 12 p.m. (noon) and 5:30 p.m. on Monday, May 14
- Lovelace Downtown emergency department from Wednesday, May 16 (3 p.m.) through Thursday, May 17 (2 a.m.)
- Fairfield Inn by Marriott at 1760 Menaul, May 16–May 17

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is obtaining the flight manifests and will be notifying state health departments in each of the affected states of residents who traveled on flights with the student during the infectious period.

The index patient's period of communicability began May 12 during a flight from India to the U.S. The patient's travel occurred as follows:

May 11: Left Bombay at 12:20 a.m.

May 12: Arrived at JFK New York at 9:30 a.m., deplaned, went through customs, and boarded a flight

May 12: Arrived at Atlanta International (Hartsfield Jackson) at 12:25 p.m. with a 5-hour lay over

May 12: Arrived at Albuquerque International at 6:13 p.m.

#### **Clinical Information**

Measles is highly contagious. Infected people are usually contagious from about 4 days before their rash starts to 4 days afterwards. The measles virus resides in the mucus in the nose and throat of infected people. When they sneeze or cough, droplets spray into the air and the droplets remain active and contagious on infected surfaces for up to two hours.

Persons infected with measles initially have a prodrome that begins 10-12 days after exposure; generally lasts 2-4 days, with a maximum range of 1-7 days. The prodrome consists of fever that gradually

increases often as high as 103-105 °F, malaise, cough, coryza (runny nose), and conjunctivitis. The rash is maculopapular, usually lasting 5-6 days. It begins at the hairline, then involves the face and upper neck. During the next three days, the rash gradually proceeds downward and outward, reaching extremities last, and is less pronounced on hands and feet. The maculopapular lesions are generally discrete, but may become confluent, particularly on the upper body. Rash fades in the same order that it appears, from head to feet. Koplik's spots (pin-point, depressed blue/white spots on bright red background on the buccal mucosa) may occur 1-2 days before rash onset to 1-2 days after rash.

#### **Health Care Provider: Recommended Guidance for Surveillance and Disease Control**

- Any person who develops symptoms that appear to be measles should be questioned about travel to Albuquerque, New Mexico between May 12th and May 16th.
- Implement airborne precautions immediately.
- Immediately report all suspected and confirmed cases of measles, including preliminary clinical and laboratory results, to the appropriate DHEC Public Health Regional Epidemiology Office (see list attached).
- Obtain documentation of the MMR vaccine history. Individuals with a history of two MMRs are considered immune.
- Instruct symptomatic persons to remain in their home and restrict visitors pending an evaluation by the health department.
- For symptomatic, susceptible patients, in consultation with the health department, obtain appropriate laboratory tests (serologies for IgG and IgM, and virus isolation) for submission to the state public health laboratory for rapid testing of specimens.
- Asymptomatic, susceptible persons (born after 1957 and is unvaccinated or has only one MMR and has no documented evidence of immunity prior to exposure) should be instructed to remain in their home and restrict visitors pending evaluation by the health department.

#### **DHEC will:**

- Contact each of the 52 individuals who were exposed contacts in Albuquerque and those who were on the flights with the measles case to determine if any are symptomatic and if any have exposed new individuals since returning to SC.
- Suspect cases will be isolated and interviewed for clinical symptoms and travel and vaccine history.
- Symptomatic patients will be referred to their private health care provider, with particular attention to notifying the provider in advance and maintaining airborne isolation precautions if the health care provider deems it necessary for the patient to be seen in the office or hospital.
- All serologies and cultures for this investigation should be submitted to the SC DHEC Public Health Laboratory for rapid testing. Specimens for serologic testing (IgM and IgG) and virus culture can be collected by DHEC or the health care provider.
- Asymptomatic contacts will be monitored through the incubation period for onset of symptoms.
- DHEC will also instruct asymptomatic susceptible contacts to remain at home and restrict visitors until evaluated. Continued quarantine will be considered on a case by case basis.
- Recommendations for Immune globulin and vaccine will be made on a case by case basis.

#### **Additional information about Measles**

Two doses of measles vaccine are highly effective in preventing disease. However persons who have never had measles or have only had one measles vaccine are considered susceptible. Persons who have had only one vaccine may develop measles. In these persons, measles may not be recognized because the clinical presentation may be mild.

Prophylaxis will consist of MMR vaccine or measles Immune Globulin (IG) to susceptible individuals. Live measles vaccine provides permanent protection and may prevent disease if given within 72 hours of exposure. IG may prevent or modify disease and provide temporary protection if given within 6 days of exposure. IG is recommended for susceptible household contacts of measles patients, particularly contact <1 year of age (for whom the risk of complications is highest) as well as immunocompromised persons.

## DHEC Contact Information for Reportable Diseases and Reporting Requirements

Reporting of outbreaks/clusters of cases is consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department. (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2004 List of Reportable Conditions available at:  
[http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/docs/reportable\\_conditions.pdf](http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/docs/reportable_conditions.pdf)

Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512).

### Regional Public Health Offices

Call reports to the Epidemiology Office in each Public Health Region.

#### Region 1

##### **(Anderson, Oconee)**

220 McGee Road  
Anderson, SC 29625  
Phone: (864) 231-1966  
Fax: (864) 260-5623  
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-298-4442

##### **(Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Saluda)**

P.O. Box 3227  
1736 S. Main Street  
Greenwood, SC 29646  
Phone: 1-888-218-5475  
Fax: (864) 942-3690  
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-420-1915

#### Region 2

##### **(Greenville, Pickens)**

P.O. Box 2507  
200 University Ridge  
Greenville, SC 29602-2507  
Phone: (864) 282-4139  
Fax: (864) 282-4373  
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-993-1186

##### **(Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union)**

P.O. Box 4217  
151 E. Wood Street  
Spartanburg, SC 29305-4217  
Phone: (864) 596-2227 ext. 210  
Fax: (864) 596-3443  
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-993-1186

#### Region 3

##### **(Chester, Lancaster, York)**

P.O. Box 817  
1833 Pageland Highway  
Lancaster, SC 29721  
Phone: (803) 286-9948  
Fax: (803) 286-5418  
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-867-3886

##### **(Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland)**

2000 Hampton Street  
Columbia, SC 29204  
Phone: (803) 576-2749  
Fax: (803) 576-2993  
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-554-9915

#### Region 4

##### **(Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter)**

P.O. Box 1628  
105 North Magnolia Street  
Sumter, SC 29150  
Phone: (803) 773-5511  
Fax: (803) 775-9941  
Nights/Weekends: 1-877-831-4647

##### **(Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Marion)**

145 E. Cheves Street  
Florence, SC 29506  
Phone: (843) 661-4830  
Fax: (843) 661-4859  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 660-8145

#### Region 5

##### **(Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg)**

P.O. Box 1126  
1550 Carolina Avenue  
Orangeburg, SC 29116  
Phone: (803) 533-7199  
Fax: (803) 533-7134  
Nights / Weekends: (803) 954-8513

#### Region 5 (cont)

##### **(Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell)**

1680 Richland Avenue, W. Suite 40  
Aiken, SC 29801  
Phone: (803) 642-1618  
Fax: (803) 643-8386  
Nights / Weekends: (803) 827-8668 or  
1-800-614-1519

#### Region 6

##### **(Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg)**

2830 Oak Street  
Conway, SC 29526-4560  
Phone: (843) 365-3126, ext. 138 or ext. 174  
Fax: (843) 365-3153  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 381-6710

#### Region 7

##### **(Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester)**

4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600  
N. Charleston, SC 29405  
Phone: (843) 746-3806  
Fax: (843) 746-3851  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 219-8470

#### Region 8

##### **(Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper)**

219 S. Lemacks Street  
Walterboro, SC 29488  
Phone: (843) 549-1516, ext 214  
Fax: (843) 549-6845  
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-614-4698

#### Bureau of Disease Control

##### Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology

1751 Calhoun Street  
Box 101106  
Columbia, SC  
Phone: (803) 898-0861  
Fax: (803) 898-0897  
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902

### Categories of Health Alert messages:

**Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.